

Application No.: 09/678580

Case No.: 48317US030

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cont

being located below the first end when the filtering face mask is worn on a person, the flexible flap being positioned on the valve seat such that the flap is pressed towards the seal surface in an abutting relationship therewith when a fluid is not passing through the orifice; and

(3) a valve cover that is disposed over the valve seat and that comprises a surface that mechanically holds the flexible flap against the flap-retaining surface.

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66. A filtering face mask that comprises:

(a) a mask body that is adapted to fit over the nose and mouth of a wearer; and

(b) an exhalation valve that is attached to the mask body, the exhalation valve comprising:

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- (1) a valve seat that comprises:
- (i) a seal surface;
 - (ii) an orifice that is surrounded by the seal surface; and
 - (iii) a flap-retaining surface; and

(2) a single flexible flap that has a stationary portion and only one free portion and a peripheral edge that includes a stationary segment and a free segment, the stationary segment of the peripheral edge being associated with the stationary portion of the flap so as to remain at rest during an exhalation, and the free segment being associated with the one free portion of the flexible flap so as to be lifted away from the seal surface during an exhalation, the free segment also being located below the stationary segment when the filtering face mask is worn on a person and viewed from the front, the flexible flap being positioned on the valve seat such that the flap is pressed towards the seal surface in an abutting relationship therewith when a fluid is not passing through the orifice; and

(3) a valve cover that is disposed over the valve seat and that comprises a surface that mechanically holds the flexible flap against the flap-retaining surface.